



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
Central Procurement Office

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION # 32110-11609**  
**AMENDMENT # 1**  
**Biomedical and Pathological Waste Pick-Up**

**DATE: May 20, 2022**

**RFI # 32110-12350 IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. State responses to questions and comments in the table below amend and clarify this RFI.**

Any restatement of RFI text in the Question/Comment column shall NOT be construed as a change in the actual wording of the RFI document.

QUESTION / COMMENT	STATE RESPONSE
1 With the RFI due date coming up, will there be another opportunity for questions before bids are due?	The initial questions and comment period ended November 15, 2021. There is a 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of questions and comments that will be due May 27, 2022.
2 If there are any revisions or edits for the terms, would those have to be submitted by the RFI due date as well or would they be submitted with the bid?	Yes, those should be submitted no later than the questions and comments deadline of May 27, 2022. No redlines may be submitted with the bid per Terms and Conditions Section 3.12.
3 Questions and responses that are in Edison, are those to be answered by Monday as well or are they just questions that will be answered with the final bid?	Those bid questions in Edison are to be completed with the actual bid, not by the RFI deadline. This RFI event in Edison is for suppliers to preview the bid event including those mandatory questions that will be asked with the bid.
4 There was some confusion about when bids are due. The RFI due date is just for questions?	Correct, the initial questions and comment deadline was November 15, 2021 and the deadline for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of questions and comments will be May 27, 2022.
5 Can you provide an example of what animals will be included in animal waste or what type of animal waste it will be?	Animal waste, designated as Pathological waste, may include rabies testing and lab animal waste. State public health labs also have a need for disposal of animal heads, such as dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, and whole bats. Western Mental Health and Memphis Mental Health do not have a need for animal waste pick-up.
6 What percentage of the waste is animal waste versus biomedical?	While an exact percentage is not known, animal waste is the smallest percentage of historical usage.
7 When will the questions be answered?	The first round of questions and comments are answered in this RFI Amendment 1. Responses to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round questions and comments will be provided with the release of the ITB solicitation.

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8 If it is a deer carcass that wouldn't fit in a 30 gallon container, would they be dismembered?	Please see the answer to Question 5. Whole deer carcasses are not intended to be part of the scope of this contract.
9 Is there a way to differentiate the needs for type of processing? For example, animal waste has to be incinerated vs sharps container pick-up and those are different costs.	The purchase orders will show what kind of pick-up and container will be needed. The Evaluation Model and resulting contract will have unique line items for biomedical waste, pathological waste, and pharmaceutical waste.
10 Sections A. and B. discuss frequency of pickups. Section A suggests a mutually agreed upon service schedule. Section B suggests weekly schedules. From the bid spreadsheet many of the sites do not produce waste that would require weekly schedules; others may be more often. Can you clarify please?	Pick-ups will be coordinated by the agency and will be a mutually agreed upon pick-up. This may be every week, but it is not required to be every week. See revised specification section VI. b. Pick-Up Specifications.
11 Please define Animal Waste for the context of this proposal. Can you give examples? For instance, animal carcasses require different containers, different processing, etc.	See Question 5.
12 Is there a required disposal method for Animal Waste? Example?	Must comply with any local, State, or Federal regulation. The preferred disposal method for public health laboratory animal head/waste disposal is incineration.
13 Section III, subsection G states that the Contractor shall furnish a sufficient number of containers to meet the Authorized Users container rotation needs based on the expected waste disposal amount and pick-up frequency. The Contractor shall furnish an EPA approved container, in accordance with Section III.a, at no cost to the Authorized User. Does this include/apply to RCRA/Non-RCRA containers?	See revised Specifications
14 In an effort to reduce cost and maximize service levels, would the State of TN be open to recommendations for optimizing container size and/or frequency of pickups?	Please see the revised Specifications. The public health labs would be open to optimizing. Western Mental Health and Memphis Mental Health is open to optimizing size and frequency as well as long as the needs of the facility are met.
15 November 15, 2021 is the due date of the RFI, will there be an extension on the RFI submission or will the question submission date change?	The updated bid submission date isn't until June 28 <sup>th</sup> .
16 If the contract is to begin January 15, 2022, when will the contract award be announced to the winning contractor and when is implementation of contract expected to commence?	The updated Notice of Intent to Award is scheduled to be released Wednesday, July 11 <sup>th</sup> . The contract will commence on that August 1 <sup>st</sup> date.
17 "The Contractor will be required to provide the DOT: Regulated Medical Waste Online Course to Authorized Users as necessary. This course must be provided as needed for Authorized Users that will be packaging Healthcare Related Waste and	This will be offered on a case by case basis. The public health labs will not need this training as all staff are trained for packaging and shipping infectious materials. Western Mental Health and Memphis Mental Health would like to have two to

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offering it for shipment.” How many users will be expected to complete the course?	three people trained so that there are sufficient backups.
18 Can substitutions be made for plastic tote containers where applicable? Current Specs require 30-gallon plastic totes. Industry standards have changed. 30-gallon cardboard biohazard containers are more widely used. They are cleaner, environmentally friendlier, easily stored at clinic sites for emergencies and overrun biohazard waste (reducing the need for emergency pickups). Additionally, any pathological, trace chemo, or pharmaceutical waste will be processed through the incineration process. Cardboard containers allow for less exposure for employees, as the whole container goes through the destruction process.	Please see the revised Specifications, Section IV.a.
19 Is this a single award or by region? Invitation to Bid document, page 2, section 2.1 suggests that the State will award a Single Contractor for all Regions of the State.	Please see the revised Terms and Conditions. This will be awarded by Region.
20 The Evaluation Model suggests multiple awards. Can you clarify please? <i>“Respondents may be awarded multiple Regions, but are not required to bid on all Regions. Respondents must bid all required lines (lines 1-9) for each county within a Region for any Region(s) bid. All pricing should be entered based off each line’s individual unit of measure (UOM). The estimated annual quantities provided are estimates for information and evaluation purposes only and are not guaranteed volumes.”</i>	Please see the revised Terms and Conditions
21 Region 1, Region 3, and Region 4 DIDD Homes. Are these private residence locations? What hours will they be available for pickup as compared to other locations?	No, they are not private residences. DIDD homes are built like neighborhoods but aren’t private. The general hours of operation for DIDD is 8-4:30.
22 Region 2. Many of these facilities are currently under contract and those contracts may not expire by the anticipated start date of this Bid. Will those locations be an immediate part of this bid, or will they join as their contracts expire?	This will be up to the Agency.

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<p>23 What type of animal waste is being disposed of? Are all the sites that are listed as having animal waste generating and disposing of this waste? I am showing of the 130 sites we are currently servicing, we have serviced pathological/chemo waste from only two sites (TN DOH Gallatin and Health Laboratory Services). If these services are needed for the 74 sites that are listed, what is the estimated volume of animal waste each site will generate per pickup or per year?</p>	<p>Please see Question 5. Not all locations will require animal waste disposal.</p>
<p>24 What type of hazardous pharmaceutical waste (compatible or incompatible) will be generated? Which facilities will require disposal of hazardous pharmaceutical waste? Will any of the facilities be disposing of controlled substances? Pricing requested for hazardous pharmaceutical waste disposal is per container. Disposal of hazardous pharmaceutical waste is available through our Hazardous Drug Disposal Service (HDDS) program which is billed at a flat monthly fee based on the number of stops and allotment of containers requested per year. Are we able to propose a monthly fee for these services?</p>	<p>Black box waste pick-up is needed. This includes nicotine patches, coumadin packaging, etc. Both compatible and incompatible pharmaceutical waste is needed. No location currently disposes of controlled substances.</p>
<p>25 The requested containers for non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste is 1.5 Quart and 2 Gallon. Are these containers required? These containers are not included with our service. These containers may be purchased separately through our Products Team.</p>	<p>Yes, this is required.</p>
<p>26 Is it required that 30 Gallon red containers be provided for biomedical and animal waste? I am showing we are currently providing facilities with 28 and 30 Gallon containers that are either red or gray for their waste with 44 Gallon containers being available as well in the future. Along with these containers, we are also providing cardboard boxes for these sites.</p>	<p>The Specifications and Evaluation Model line items have been modified to indicate an acceptable container size range for biomedical waste and pathological waste. If any additional sizes are needed, the Agency will need to reach out to CPO.</p>
<p>27 Is disposal for chemical waste needed? We currently do not provide disposal for chemical waste.</p>	<p>Please see revised Specifications. Chemical waste has been removed and will not be included in this contract.</p>
<p>28 Is weekly services required for biomedical and animal waste? I am showing only 4 of the 130 sites we are currently servicing are being serviced on a weekly frequency.</p>	<p>Please see Question 10.</p>
<p>29 Is it required that proof of sanitation of containers be provided upon request?</p>	<p>Yes, the Contractor shall provide a proof of sanitation of all containers via email to the application Authorized User(s) that details the cleaning method, products used, and any other relevant information.</p>
<p>30 Is it mandatory that Diversity Business Enterprises (DBE) or subcontractors be utilized</p>	<p>No, it is not mandatory.</p>

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for this contract? We are currently providing services directly to the sites and would continue to do so if awarded.	
31 If DBEs and subcontractors are not mandatory, will we be required to submit a DBE an Subcontractor Usage Report?	No, they will not be required if no DBE/subcontractor is used.
32 Is it mandatory that all items under '6.4(a) Invoice Requirements' listed on Page 12 of the Terms and Conditions be included on our invoices? The majority of the items listed are standard items that are included in our invoices but due to character limitations in our system, we may not be able to include all items such as Edison supplier ID number.	The State requests that every item detailed in 6.4(a) be included on invoices.
33 What are the State's payment terms? Our standard payment terms are Net 30.	The State operates on a Net 45. Please see Prompt Pay Act at TCA 12-4-701.
34 Is '8.11 Procurement of Recovered Materials' applicable for this bid?	Yes, this term may be applicable if requesting Authorized User is utilizing Federal funds.